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## INDIANA SECTORS REGIONAL CONVENINGS

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Southern Indiana Convening: June 13, 2017 • Odon, IN

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### PLENARY SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

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#### **Michael Barnes**

*Associate Chief Operating Officer for Employer Engagement, Indiana Department of Workforce Development*

Michael Barnes is the Associate Chief Operating Officer for Employer Engagement at the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. He has received his Bachelor's degree in Economics and a Masters of Business Administration. Michael serves as Chair for the Governor's Health Workforce Council. Michael also sits on the board of a local charitable organization; he lives in Indianapolis with his wife and three sons.

#### **John Burant**

*Vice President of Global Business Development, Flanders Inc.*

John Burant is FLANDERS' Vice President of Global Business Development and has served in various capacities over his seven year tenure including overseeing manufacturing, engineering, marketing and more along with project management. Prior to FLANDERS, Burant held senior engineering manager and group leader roles with P & H Mining Equipment and A.B.B. Burant is also involved in the Evansville, IN community as the Tri-State

Manufacturer's Alliance (TSMA) Board Chairman.

#### **Wendy Dant Chesser**

*President & Chief Executive Officer, One Southern Indiana*

In November, 2012, Wendy Dant Chesser joined One Southern Indiana (1si) as the organization's third President and CEO. Driven by a strong desire to implement change that would establish stronger economic growth, a better educated and better paid workforce and a structure of advocacy within the State of Indiana, 1si serves as the organization that speaks with one vision and one voice for Clark and Floyd counties. Its mission is to provide the connections, resources and services that help businesses innovate and thrive in the region.

Wendy came to back to her home area after serving as President of Cornerstone Alliance, a similar organization to 1si in Southwest Michigan. Wendy's role in leading the organization included serving as a Trustee of the 530-acre Harbor Shores development and directing the 700-member Cornerstone Chamber of Commerce. Prior to her move to Michigan, she worked in various aspects of economic development for over seven years with the

State of Indiana, and spent the last year of her government career as Deputy Executive Director for Program Operations of the Indiana Department of Commerce.

Wendy is a present or past member of several professional organizations, including the International Economic Development Council and economic development organizations in both Indiana and Michigan, and currently serves as a Vice Chari/Director and Legislative Committee Chair for the Indiana Economic Development Association. She has been active in several Big Brother Big Sisters organizations as a volunteer mentor and board member. She has volunteered in United Way activities and has coached youth volleyball and basketball teams.

Wendy was named one of North America's Top 50 Economic Developers of 2015 by Consultant Connect, a consulting agency designed to bridge the gap between economic developers and site consultants. She was awarded the 2000 Outstanding Young Hoosier Award from the Indiana Jaycees, was recognized in the Indianapolis Business Journal's "Forty Under 40" for 2004, and was honored by Western Michigan Business Review's "Business Leaders Under 40."

Wendy is a native of Jeffersonville, Indiana, and she received her Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Indiana University Southeast in 1991. She and her daughter, Joslyn, reside in Jeffersonville.

## **Shannon Doody**

*Director of Education Workforce Partnerships, Center for Excellence in Leadership of Learning, University of Indianapolis*

Shannon Doody received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville and a master's degree in school counseling and clinical psychology from Ball State University. She holds a license in school counseling and formerly served in admissions for Valparaiso University. Currently she serves as the Director of Education Workforce Partnerships at CELL where she promotes innovative models of education that align with the realities of workforce needs.

## **Leigh Anne Downes**

*Director of Demand Driven Workforce System, Indiana Department of Workforce Development*

Leigh Anne Downes has served communities in driving economic and workforce development initiatives for the past 15 years. Leigh Anne relocated to Indianapolis in fall of 2014. Upon arrival, Leigh Anne began serving the Indianapolis community as Vice President of Business Partnerships with EmployIndy, (Region 12), where she managed a team of Business Solutions Representatives and Recruiters assisting employers in meeting their current and future talent needs. On August 29, 2016, Leigh Anne began serving the State of Indiana through the Department of Workforce Development in driving forward a new demand driven workforce system statewide serving employers, job seekers, students, educators and workforce professionals. Leigh Anne holds a Bachelor

of Science degree from Union University with a focus on Organizational Leadership in Healthcare Management.

### **Tina Peterson**

*Interim Chief Executive Officer, Regional Opportunity Initiatives, Inc., President & Chief Executive Officer, Community Foundation of Bloomington & Monroe County*

Tina currently serves as the President and CEO of the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County and as the Interim CEO of Regional Opportunity Initiatives, Inc. She began her tenure at the Community Foundation in 2011 with a focus on growing the organization's capacity to create impact and support transformative approaches to addressing the community's most pressing needs and compelling opportunities.

For the past four years, Tina has worked collaboratively with organizations across Southwest Central Indiana to create and implement a plan for economic and community prosperity across the region. In 2015, Regional Opportunity Initiatives, a new nonprofit, was formed to advance education, workforce development, and quality of life in an 11-county region. Tina was named interim CEO of ROI in January, 2016 and the organization received a \$26.5 million grant from the Lilly Endowment to support the work of ROI.

Tina received a Bachelor's of Business Administration from Texas A&M University. She and her husband, Dan, are the parents of four children.

### **Joe Timbrook**

*Chief Operating Officer, Radius Indiana*

Joe Timbrook became COO of Radius Indiana in 2016 and has been with the organization since 2011. Previously, he worked with the Lawrence County Economic Growth Council and was Senior Vice President of Marketing for Hoosier Hills Credit Union. He also spent twenty years in Southern California working in retail executive management for Macy's before returning to his native roots in Southern Indiana. As well as managing the daily operations of the organization and staff, he spends a significant time traveling in the eight county region working with the Local Economic Development Organizations and other Radius stakeholders. He focuses on Workforce and Education collaborations and strategies with the state Department of Workforce Development and South Central Planning group. He is a member of the Indiana Economic Development Association and works on multiple community projects in the Lawrence County area, including work with the Community Foundation, American Red Cross and the Community Corrections Advisory Council.